

Aviation services

Aerodrome weather information service

Reference material

Aerodrome weather information service (AWIS)

AWIS transmit meteorological information from the automatic weather station (AWS) via a phone number and/or, at some aerodromes and critical locations, via a VHF radio broadcast. The information in an AWIS report is typically updated every minute with the most recent observation data and applicable averages. This makes the AWIS considered 'real-time' data.

Some, or all of the following information may be provided:

- Message identifier, e.g. "AWS AERODROME WEATHER" or "AUTOMATED WEATHER INFORMATION SERVICE"
- Station identifier as a plain language station name
- Time (UTC)
- Wind direction in degrees magnetic and speed in knots
- Visibility
- RVR (where available)
- Present weather
- Cloud below 10,000FT, amount and height
- Temperature in whole degrees Celsius
- Dew point in whole degrees Celsius
- QNH in whole hectopascals
- Rainfall (last 10 minutes).

When information is not available the relevant element of the broadcast will be identified as "[ELEMENT NAME] CURRENTLY NOT AVAILABLE", e.g. "TEMPERATURE CURRENTLY NOT AVAILABLE".

Where present weather is reported, and there is an outage of the lightning network used to derive the thunderstorm data, "THUNDERSTORM DATA NOT AVAILABLE" will be used.

When the information from the AWIS is determined as being corrupt, a NOTAM will be issued.

When AWIS information is available after hours at aerodromes that have an automatic terminal information service (ATIS), reference will be made to the availability of AWIS in the ATIS message that is broadcast outside the hours of tower activation.

The weather and terminal information reciter (WATIR) service also transmits meteorological information from the AWS, but combines this with additional information from the airport operator.

Information on the availability of the AWIS and WATIR services, and associated phone numbers and/or frequencies, is given in the Airservices Australia publication En Route Supplement Australia (ERSA).

AWIS examples

The examples below are of AWIS observation messages and the corresponding aerodrome meteorological report (METAR/SPECI). Note that some information may vary between the messages. For instance, the wind information given on the AWIS is in degrees magnetic and averaged over a 2-minute period, whereas the METAR/SPECI wind is given in degrees true and averaged over 10 minutes. The visibility and RVR is averaged over one minute for the AWIS, but over 10 minutes for the METAR/SPECI.

AWIS – Avalon Airport

Automated weather information service. Avalon Airport. Time zero five three zero zulu. Wind two two zero degrees magnetic at one eight knots. Visibility two five kilometres. Present weather no significant weather. Cloud broken five thousand six hundred feet, overcast seven thousand one hundred feet. Temperature two six. Dew point one two. QNH zero niner niner eight hectopascals. Rainfall last 10 minutes nil.

METAR – YMAV

METAR YMAV 150530Z AUTO 22015KT 9999 // BKN056 OVC071 26/12 Q0998 RMK RF00.0/000.2

AWIS – Alice Springs Airport

Automated weather information service. Alice Springs Airport. Time zero five zero zero zulu. Wind one zero zero degrees magnetic at one two knots. Maximum two three knots. Minimum 7 knots. Visibility two five kilometres. Present weather no significant weather. Cloud clear below one zero thousand feet. Temperature three six. Dew point niner. QNH one zero zero seven hectopascals. Rainfall last 10 minutes nil.

METAR – ABAS

METAR YBAS 150500Z AUTO 11013G23KT 9999 // NCD 36/09 Q1007 RMK RF00.0/000.0

AWIS – Curtin Airport

Automated weather information service. Curtin Airport. Time zero six zero zero zulu. Wind zero eight zero degrees magnetic at eight knots. Visibility six kilometres. Present weather thunderstorm with heavy showers of rain. Clouds scattered one thousand eight hundred feet, broken two thousand eight hundred feet, broken three thousand seven hundred feet. Temperature two five. Dew point two four. QNH one zero zero three hectopascal. Rainfall last 10 minutes three decimal four millimetres.

METAR – YCIN

SPECI YCIN 150600Z AUTO 10010KT 2700 +TSRA SCT018 BKN028 BKN037 25/24 Q1003 RMK RF03.4/027.0 TS

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